IN THE MEMORY OF

Khateebul Islam Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Salim Qasmi (RA)

THE MIRROR

PATRON

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UNDER SUPERVISION OF

MUFTI SAJJAD HUSAIN QASMI

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Innovations and Ill-customs In Muharram

By: Arif Abdullah

As we know that the month of Muharram is one of the inviolable and valuable months for Muslim community. According to the lunar calendar, it's known as the first month in Islamic months. In Islam, it's considered as a sanctified and sacred month and the 10th day is recognised as the day of Ashura. There are many virtues of fasting on this day. In a tradition, the best of fasts is fast of Muharram after Ramadan, that's why most of the Muslims keep fast on the day.

Besides, Allah has blessed this month with so many virtues that cannot be described by words. In return, we should appreciate it, but the pity is that a lot of ill customs and innovations were added by the ignorant, untutored and uneducated Muslim community after the tragic incident of Karbala took place.

Here, few ill-customs and innovations that are commonly seen during the Muharram.

(1) Taking out different processions in the memory of martyrdom of Imam Husain and his companions, and commemorating the Battle of Karbala.

(2) Mourning, elegizing, offering condolences, making slogans and uttering blasphemous words on 10th of Muharram. Abusing the companions and taunting them, especially, Hazrat Muavia (RA)

(3) Expressing the sorrows and pains by thumping and wounding chests.

(4) Making 'Tazias' in Muharram 10th, treating them as worthy of respect, worshipping and asking them for wishes and vows.

(5) Playing stick, beating the drum and walking on fire. Staying bare-headed, bare-footed and bare-bodied for the sake of expressing grief.

(6) Participating in the mourning with enthusiasm. Cooking special dishes, known as ' Khechda and Haleem' in India. (7) Not tying the knot, considering the month of Muharram as a month of mourning.

These are only few innovations and ill-customs. May Allah give all of us the right understanding of religion and protect us from all kinds of false innovations and ill-customs. Ameen.

Muharram Number

Martyrdom of Husain (RA)

By: Taufiqurrahman

The month of Muharram is the first month of Islamic calendar. An important and tragic incident took place on the tenth day of Muharram that shook the Muslim world. It was the assassination of Husain (R.A), his family members, close friends and relatives by the army of Yazeed. At that time Yazeed was the ruler of Muslim world, who came to power as sixth caliph of Islam, after the death of his father Muaviah (RA). Yazeed gave himself a title of "Ameer-al- Mumineen "meaning - the commander of the faithful-.

In the 61st Hijrah (680A.D) the tragedy of Husain's martyrdom took place. Husain (R.A) was performing the pilgrimage, just then a news came that the enemies have been sent by Yazeed to kill him. After getting the news, Husain (R.A) took with him his family members as well as relatives and left for Kufa. At the same time, Hur was the governor of Kufa, Husain (R.A) reached with his relatives, all of them stayed there.

On the seventh day of Muharram, Ibn-e-Ziyad the governor of kufa ordered that food and water supplies be blocked from reaching Husain's camp. Hunger and thirst were so increasing, in the Husain's camp, that cannot be described. The children especially were becoming weak for the lack of water. In the meantime, the members of Yazeed's army were increasing in thousands. Husain (R.A) requested Yazeed's army to get water at least to those children, but to no avail.

On the tenth day of Muharram, Yazeed with his armies was ready to attack the small group of protectors in Husain's camp. One by one his family members and relatives took permission to go out and fight. Each one fought and laid down his life in the protection of Islam. Soon, Husain (R.A) was left alone to face enemies, as all male members of his camp had died. The importance of Husain's martyrdom can be evaluated that Indian people Muslims or non-Muslims equally have acknowledged that Husain (R.A) saved Islam by sacrificing his life.

Muharram Number

Virtues of Muharram

By: Abdus Salam

Allah created uncountable things by His power and gave superiority to one over the other as the four Angels from among all the angels, the prophets and messengers from among the human beings, our beloved prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) over all messengers, the holy Quran on the other books and Lailatul Qadr on the other nights.

Similarly, four of the months have special importance. Muharram is among them.

The Islamic calendar starts from Muharram. Allah says in His book.

ان عدة الشهور عند الله اثنى عشر شهرا في كتاب الله يوم خلق السماوات والارض منها اربعه حرم ذلك الدين القيم فلا تظلموا فهن انفكسم (سوره توبه)

Surely, the number of months according to Allah is twelve (as written) in the book of Allah on the day He created the heavens and the earth, of which there four sacred months. This is the right. So, do not wrong yourself therein (Surah Al tauba 36)

The setting of these twelve months starts with Muharram and ends on Dul hijj.Before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) Muharram was considered one of the holiest months. After the advent of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) its importance increased. Arab respected four months, Dhu'al Qa'dah, Dhu'al-Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab, though the livelihood of Arab depended on robbery, they stopped bloodshed and robbery in these inviolable months.

There is a tradition in which the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said that the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is Tahajjud,

And the best fast after Ramadan is the fasts of Muharram.May Allah give us Taufiq to value this month.

Muharram Number

Historical background of Hijri calendar

By: Abdurrahman

Calendar is a national, social and human need. It is necessary for memorising special events, for planning something and all that. It is in our knowledge that Arab citizens used solar months for their works, they used to fix weeding and they used dates for official works.

Once **Abu Musa Ashari (RA)** complained to Khalifa Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) that you had sent me a letter. I could not know to which date, day, month and year belonged the letter, as the date was not written on the letter. I was confused wether the letter was of this year or of the last year. After that Khalifa Umar debated the issue with his advisors as to what we should do about this matter? What should be solution? And what should be the name of the calendar? Some companions suggested that the date of the Prophet's birth should mark the beginning of a new calendar, whilst others suggested the date of his death. However, the majority agreed that the calendar should begin with the date of his migration. Khalifa Umar then consulted with the Prophet's revered companions Uthman ibn Affan and Ali bin Abi Talib, and they agreed.

After all the discussions, Khalifa Umar announced that the year in which the Prophet Mohammad migrated would mark the beginning of the **Hijri calendar**. The calendar would begin with the month of Muharram and end with the month of Dhul Hijja .Thus hijri calendar started and this is the historical background of **Hijri calendar.**

The **Hijri year** consists of 12 months, as Allah says in the holy Quran in verse (36) of Surat al-Tawbah:

"Verily the number of months with Allah is twelve months in the Book of Allah, (since) the day He created the heavens and the earth, four of them is sacred. That is the established religion. So be you not unjust unto your selves during them. And fight polytheists totally even as they fight you totally, and know that Allah is with the pious ones."

According to Islamic Hijri calendar we Muslim perform good deeds, such as we keep fast in the month of Ramadan and perform Hajj to Mecca. In short that we Muslims do our religious practices according to the same. So we should remember this calendar and name of months and try to use. May Allah give us Tofique. Ameen.

Virtue of 10th Muharram's fasting

By: Md Affan

Muharram is the first Islamic month, and it is sacred and holy month in Islam. Its 10th day is known as the day of Ashura. It has great virtues, and it is important day for Muslims. Where there is a special virtue of worship on this day, fasting is also much rewarding worship. Except for Muharram, this kind of virtue is not mentioned in other days after Ramadan. Our prophet (Peace be upon him) used to observe the day of 10th Muharram. The virtues of tenth day are proved and it is clear from hadith. Our messenger said that you should keep fast .Allah accepted the repentance of Israelites on this day. And on the same day Allah accept repentance of other people too.

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) also wanted his followers to observe two days on the day of Ashura and the day before. The one that keeps fast in the month of Muharram will receive the reward of thirty fasts for each fast. This is very valuable month for Muslims. We should worship more and more. Along with the day of Ashura, the entire month of Muharram has a special significance in Shariyah. And Jews used to respect this day and celebrate it like Eid. On the same day Allah saved Musa (Peace be upon him) from Pharaoh. Some people understand that to keep fast on the day of 10th Muharram alone is a sin. It is better we should add one fast to tenth Muharram. We should keep fast of two days so that it should be against Jews.

May Allah give us Taufiq to value these days and to understand its importance.

Muharram Number

What is the Muharram?

By: Muhammad Rashid

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. It is called Muharram-Al-Haram too. Even before Islam, this month was considered highly respected and Islam upheld this respect. Fighting is forbidden in this month, because of its sanctity. The new Islamic year starts with this month. Indeed, the month of Muharram is a glorious and blessed month. It is one of the sacred months about which Allah the exiled says:

"إن عدة الشهور عند الله اثنا عشر شهرا في كتاب الله يوم خل السموات والارض منها أربعة حرم"

Surat No.9 Ayat no.36.

Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred.

And reported the messenger of Allah (peace and blessing be upon him) said: There are twelve months of the year, of which four are sacred. Three are consecutive- Dhul-Qadah, Dhu- Al-Hijjah, Muharram- and one is between Jumad-Al-Aakhir and Shaban that is Rajab which is called Rajab- Al-Murajjab. At another place the prophet (PBUH) said: After Ramadan the best fasts are the fasts of the month of Muharrm. And it is proven from the prophet (PBUH) that he used to fast in the month of Muharram. Another virtue in this month is that the prophet (PBUH) is reported to have said:

"مَنْ وَسَّعَ عَلَى عِيَالِهِ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ وَسَّعَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ في سَائِرِ سَنَتِهِ"

Whoever generously spends on his dependents on the day of Aashura, Allah Ta'ala will expand his sustenance (Baraqah) for the rest of that year.

(Shuabul Imaan-244) [3]

May Allah give us ability to value this month!

Muharram Number

Martyrdom of Hazrat Umar Farooque (RA) in this month of Muharram

By: Abdul Qayyum

So many people have come and gone in, from, this world and there is no trace of them. Yes! If anyone's name is alive today, that's the name of those who sacrificed their lives and wealth for Islam, of those who were martyred for the sake of islam, of those who orphaned their children and widowed their wives, of those who got their necks cut for the sake of islam. One of them is the drinker of martyrdom known to the world as the caliph Umar (RA), who gave the message of justice and only justice during his Caliphate. Yes the same Umar Farooque who under (كلكم راع وكلكم مسئول عن رعيته) patrolled the streets at night but this message of truth did not suit the people and to end voice of this truth a Majoosi named Abu Lulu Feroz was contracted to kill him and he took dagger and sat down in the niche of the mosque. This cursed person stabbed him several times in the middle of prayer, due to which he fainted. Abdurrahman bin Auf led the left prayer and the companions caught the cursed man, but he attacked the Companions due to which seven companions were killed while five others were injured. This cursed man killed himself too. When Hazrat Umar Farooque (RA) regained consciousness, he inquired about his killer. He was stabbed on 27 Dhul -Hijjah and passed away on Muharram. His funeral prayer was led by Suhaib Rumi (RA) and he is resting on the left side of the prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace).

Muharram Number